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January 17, 2008

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**Hay Creek II  
Coal EIS**

## **BLM Prepares EIS on Coal Lease Application: Scoping meeting set for Jan. 31, 2008**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Casper Field Office is requesting public comments on a federal coal lease application received from Kiewit Mining Group Inc. for a coal tract in the Powder River Basin. BLM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this lease application and is requesting public comments regarding issues and resource information.

Kiewit Mining Group Inc. filed an application with BLM for a maintenance tract of federal coal adjacent to the company's Buckskin Mine in Campbell County, Wyo. The Hay Creek II Tract was applied for as a lease by application (LBA) under the provisions of 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3425.1. The tract includes approximately 148 million tons of recoverable federal coal, and would allow the mine to maintain production rates and extend the life of the mine.

Major issues that have been identified include:

- potential conflicts between existing and proposed oil and gas development including coalbed natural gas and coal mining
- potential impacts to big game herds and hunting
- potential impacts to sage grouse
- potential impacts to listed threatened and endangered species
- potential health impacts related to blasting
- potential cumulative impacts of coal leasing decisions combined with other existing and proposed development in the Wyoming Powder River Basin
- potential site specific and cumulative impacts on air and water quality.

On Jan. 31, 2008, BLM will hold a public scoping meeting at 7 p.m., at the Gillette College Presentation Hall, Room 120, 300 West Sinclair, Gillette, Wyo. The public is invited to submit comments and resource information, and offer issues or concerns to be considered in the LBA process.

Please submit written comments or concerns to the BLM Casper Field Office, Attn: Teresa Johnson, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyo. 82604. Written comments or resource information may be sent to the BLM Casper Field Office. Comments or questions may also be sent by facsimile to the attention of Teresa Johnson at 307-261-7587; or sent electronically to: [casper\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:casper_wymail@blm.gov). Please put Hay Creek II LBA Tract / Teresa Johnson in the subject line. Comments are due March 29, 2008.

-BLM-